

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9567

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0880

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY

SUBJ: SYG'S PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH CYPRUS PARTIES

REF: STATE 58901

1. SYG HELD PRELIMINARY TALKS MARCH 17 AND 18 WITH CLERIDES, CHELIK AND GREEK AND TURKISH AMBASSADORS TO DISCUSS LOCATION AND TIMING OF NEW CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SC LAST WEEK ASKED HIM TO CONVENE. HE HAS ALREADY RUN INTO TWO OBSTACLES. FIRST, AND MOST SERIOUS, IS DENKTASH'S REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN RESUMED TALKS AND CLERIDES' UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANYONE ELSE. SECOND IS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF VENUE, WHICH SYG SEEMS ABOUT TO TRY AND RESOLVE BY INSISTING ON GENEVA.

2. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, SYG WAS ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF NEW TALKS WITH CLERIDES AND CHELIK TOGETHER WHILE THEY WERE IN NEW YORK, BUT CHELIK REFUSED ON GROUND SUCH A MEETING MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS. CLERIDES WOULD HAVE HAD NO OBJECTION TO MEETING WITH CHELIK HERE ON TEMPORARY BASIS. HOWEVER, HE INSISTS DENKTASH MUST BE PERMANENT TURK CYPRIOT INTERLOCUTOR; IF NOT, HE HAS TOLD
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SECRETARIAT HE WOULD APPOINT TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS AS GREEK

CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR.

3. WALDHEIM'S REACTION TO THIS, USYG URQUHART TOLD AMB SCHAUFELLE, IS TO INSIST THAT DENKTASH PARTICIPATE. SYG SAYS HE HAS TOLD TURKS THAT IF HE IS TO PLAY ROLE ASSIGNED TO HIM BY COUNCIL, DENKTASH MUST TAKE PART.

4. WALDHEIM HAS ATTEMPTED TO BREAK IMPASSE OVER VENUE BY SUGGESTING GENEVA. TURKS CONTINUE TO PREFER VIENNA OR ROME, WHILE GREEKS AND CYPRIOTS WANT NEW YORK BUT WOULD PROBABLY ACQUIESCE IN GENEVA. SPECIFICALLY, SYG HAS PROPOSED THAT TALKS BEGIN APRIL 21 IN GENEVA. OPENING SESSION TO LAST TWO WEEKS. HE HAS TOLD PARTIES HE MUCH PREFERS A UN HEADQUARTERS IF HE IS TO SPEND MUCH TIME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS.

5. BOTH CLERIDES AND CHELIK PLAN LEAVE NEW YORK THIS EVENING, MARCH 18, FOR NICOSIA. WECKMANN ALSO EXPECTS TO LEAVE TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN00880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0833
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750338/aaaabijy.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 58901
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYG'S PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH CYPRUS PARTIES
TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006